

### **Focus Area 3: Oropharyngeal Cancer**

**Objective 3-6** targets an overall reduction in the oropharyngeal cancer death rate to 2.4 per 100,000 population.

California's age-adjusted death rates for oropharyngeal cancer declined from 2.7 per 100,000 population in 2000 to 2.4 per 100,000 in 2004, but this was not a statistically significant trend (Figure 3-6, Table 3-6). The HP2010 objective of 2.4 deaths per 100,000 population is being achieved as of 2004.

Age-adjusted oropharyngeal cancer death rates for males were significantly higher than rates for females, and also significantly higher than the HP2010 target. Death rates for males declined from 3.8 per 100,000 in 2000 to 3.6 per 100,000 in 2004, compared with a decline for females from 1.8 per 100,000 in 2000 to 1.4 per 100,000 in 2004. Neither of these trends was statistically significant, and the HP2010 objective is being achieved only for females.

Data by race and ethnicity show that Blacks/African Americans had significantly higher age-adjusted oropharyngeal cancer death rates than any other racial or ethnic population: 3.4 per 100,000 in 2004. The HP2010 objective is being achieved for Hispanics/Latinos (1.4 per 100,000 in 2004), Whites (2.6 per 100,000 in 2004), and Asians (2.1 per 100,000 in 2004). Death rates for the American Indian/Alaska Native, Pacific Islander, and the Multirace populations were unreliable due to the small number of events and are not reported here.

For more information on oropharyngeal cancer in California, visit the California Cancer Registry Web site at:

<http://www.ccrca.org/>

For more information on Healthy People 2010 objective 3-6, please visit:

<http://www.healthypeople.gov/Document/HTML/Volume1/03Cancer.htm>

and

<http://www.healthypeople.gov/Document/html/tracking/od03.htm>

**Figure 3-6**  
**Oropharyngeal Cancer Death Rates**  
**California, 2000-2004**

Healthy People 2010 Objective = 2.4

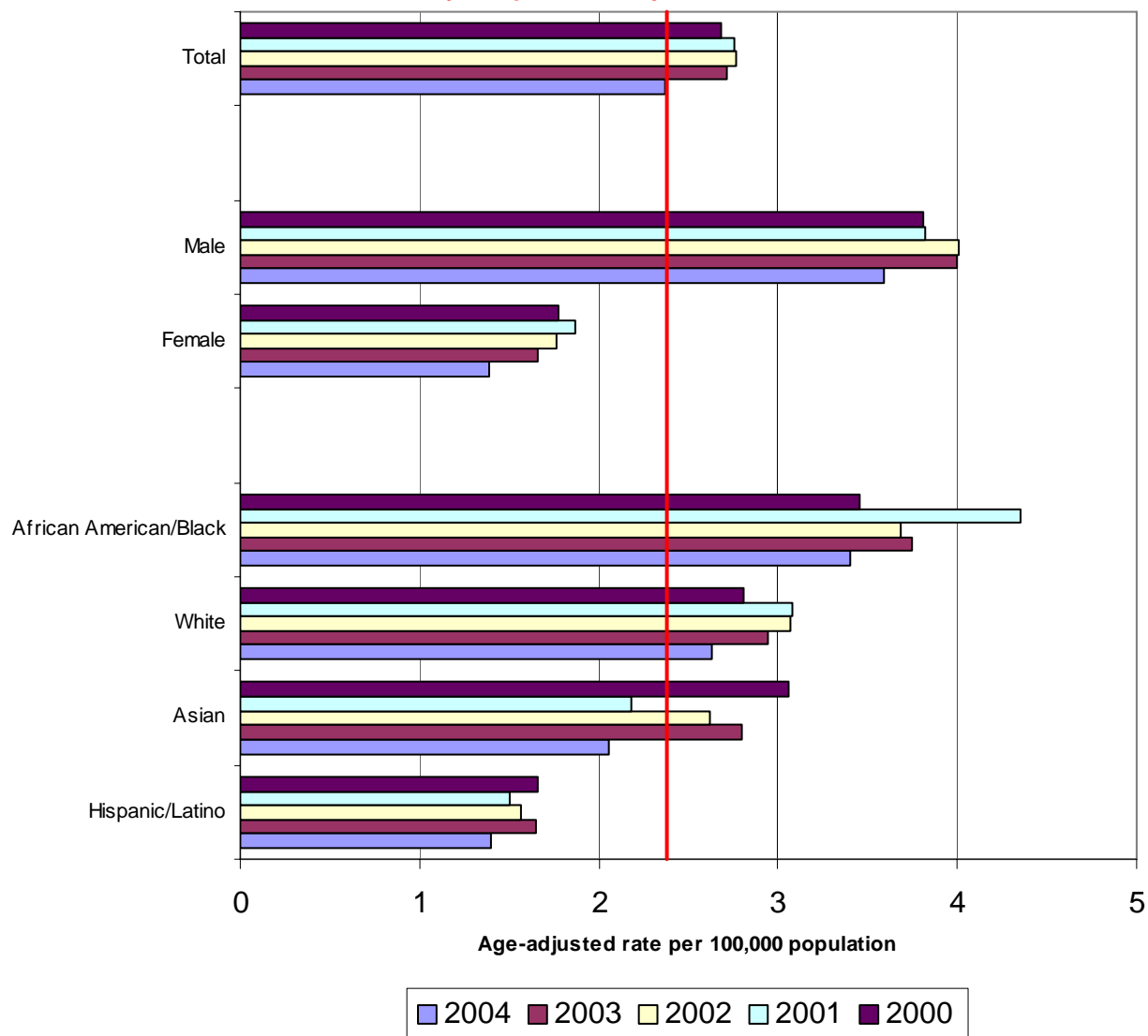


Table 3-6: Oropharyngeal Cancer Deaths and Death Rates, California 2000-2004

Objective 3-6	2000 N	Rate <sup>1</sup>	Lower 95% C.I.	Upper 95% C.I.	2001 N	Rate <sup>1</sup>	Lower 95% C.I.	Upper 95% C.I.
<b>Healthy People 2010 Target</b>		<b>2.4</b>				<b>2.4</b>		
<b>Statewide Total</b>	799	2.7	2.5	2.9	852	2.8	2.6	2.9
<b>Race-Ethnicity</b>								
African American/Black	60	3.5	2.6	4.4	79	4.3	3.4	5.3
American Indian/Alaska Native	4	DSU	-----	-----	0	0.0	0.0	0
Asian	98	3.1	2.4	3.7	76	2.2	1.7	2.7
Hispanic/Latino	77	1.7	1.3	2.1	75	1.5	1.1	1.9
Pacific Islander	5	DSU	-----	-----	4	DSU	-----	-----
White	553	2.8	2.6	3.0	617	3.1	2.8	3.3
Multirace	0	0.0	0.0	0	1	DSU	-----	-----
<b>Gender</b>								
Female	296	1.8	1.6	2.0	321	1.9	1.7	2.1
Male	503	3.8	3.5	4.1	531	3.8	3.5	4.2

Objective 3-6	2002 N	Rate <sup>1</sup>	Lower 95% C.I.	Upper 95% C.I.	2003 N	Rate <sup>1</sup>	Lower 95% C.I.	Upper 95% C.I.
<b>Healthy People 2010 Target</b>		<b>2.4</b>				<b>2.4</b>		
<b>Statewide Total</b>	888	2.8	2.6	3.0	900	2.7	2.5	2.9
<b>Race-Ethnicity</b>								
African American/Black	71	3.7	2.8	4.6	72	3.8	2.9	4.6
American Indian/Alaska Native	1	DSU	-----	-----	2	DSU	-----	-----
Asian	94	2.6	2.1	3.2	106	2.8	2.3	3.3
Hispanic/Latino	83	1.6	1.2	1.9	93	1.7	1.3	2.0
Pacific Islander	3	DSU	-----	-----	4	DSU	-----	-----
White	634	3.1	2.8	3.3	620	2.9	2.7	3.2
Multirace	2	DSU	-----	-----	2	DSU	-----	-----
<b>Gender</b>								
Female	314	1.8	1.6	2.0	303	1.7	1.5	1.8
Male	574	4.0	3.7	4.3	597	4.0	3.7	4.3

Objective 3-6	2004 N	Rate <sup>1</sup>	Lower 95% C.I.	Upper 95% C.I.	5-year Trend	HP2010 Objective Being Achieved?
<b>Healthy People 2010 Target</b>		<b>2.4</b>				
<b>Statewide Total</b>	802	2.4	2.2	2.5	ns	Yes
<b>Race-Ethnicity</b>						
African American/Black	67	3.4	2.6	4.2	ns	No
American Indian/Alaska Native	5	DSU	-----	-----	n/a	Unk
Asian	80	2.1	1.6	2.5	ns	Yes
Hispanic/Latino	84	1.4	1.1	1.7	ns	Yes
Pacific Islander	4	DSU	-----	-----	n/a	Unk
White	559	2.6	2.4	2.8	ns	Yes
Multirace	3	DSU	-----	-----	n/a	Unk
<b>Gender</b>						
Female	260	1.4	1.2	1.6	ns	Yes
Male	542	3.6	3.3	3.9	ns	No

SOURCES: CA Department of Health Services, Death Records, 2000-2004; CA Department of Finance, Demographic Research Unit, Population Projections by Race/Ethnicity for California and Its Counties 2000-2050, May 2004.

NOTES: Oropharyngeal cancer deaths defined by ICD-10 codes C00-C14.

<sup>1</sup> Rate per 100,000 population, age-adjusted using the 2000 US population standard.

Sig. - Statistically significant decrease in age-adjusted death rates from 2000 to 2004.

Sig. + Statistically significant increase in age-adjusted death rates from 2000 to 2004.

ns No significant trend as measured by linear regression analysis; n/a Not applicable (fewer than five data points)

DSU Data statistically unreliable (Relative Standard Error greater than 23 percent).